



## RESOLUTION 2021-007

### **Resolution to Authorize the Reconstitution of the Town of Townsend Police Department.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7.8.1 of the Town of Townsend Charter directs that the Town Council may appoint a police force consisting of such person or persons as the Town Council deems wise and advisable; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town Council shall, from time to time, adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary for the organization, government and control of the police force; and

**WHEREAS**, The members of the force shall be subject to the direction and supervision of a police officer of the Town who shall have the title of Chief of Police. The Chief of Police shall report directly to the Town Council unless, upon majority vote, the Town Council shall assign him or her to report to the Town Manager.”; and

**WHEREAS**, With the current population of 2,697 residents, the Town of Townsend continues to grow and develop, at a significant rate over the past two decades, rising to be the 18<sup>th</sup> largest community in the State of Delaware by population, and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Townsend has had to explore various options for expanding public safety in the Town of Townsend as outlined in a report provided by the Town Manager at a meeting of the Town Council on May 5, 2021 which included general estimated costs for reconstituting a municipal police service and an estimated timeline; and; and

**WHEREAS**, in the state of Delaware, the Town of Townsend is currently one of only three jurisdictions with 500 or more residents without a municipal police department and the Town of Townsend is the only community with 1,200 residents or more without a municipal police service; and

**WHEREAS**, A three year analysis of police responses to the Town of Townsend, completed by Delaware State Police, showed that police responses have increased over the past three years and domestic disputes have increased significantly over the past three years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**Section 1.** Town Council authorize the reconstitution of a municipal police department. In accordance with Section 7.8.2 of the Townsend Code of Ordinances, the police force shall preserve peace and order and shall compel obedience within the town limits to the ordinances of the town and the laws of the State; and they shall have such other duties, as the Town Council shall from time to time prescribe. In the case of the pursuit of an offender, his or her power and authority shall extend to all parts of the State of Delaware.

**Section 2.** Town Council affirms the authorization of the Town Manager to solicit applications for the position of Police Chief to aid in the reconstitution of a municipal police department. The Town Manager will make recommendations to the Public Safety Committee for selectees for interview by the Committee and the Town Council.

**Section 3.** The Chief of Police or another designated officer will be present at all Town Council meetings, to provide a report of the Town's criminal activities or lack thereof, and to keep the peace.

**Section 4.** The Town Council directs the Town Manager and Financial Officer to prepare the required budget elements within the Town's existing operating budget for the planning of funds for this purpose with the approval of the Town Council.

*Dated: June 2, 2021*

*Passed and approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of June 2021*

By:

Vote of Council	Yea	Na	Abs
Mayor			
CP			

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

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Anthony S, Mangeri  
Town Manager